

## **Rabbi Joshua Ben-Gideon – Short Bio**

Rabbi Ben-Gideon was born and raised in Albany, New York. He chose to pursue the rabbinate when a college mentor advised him to work in a field where he felt he could make a unique and meaningful difference to others. This advice helped him to realize that his professional future would be in Jewish life. At the core of what calls him to be a rabbi is the opportunity to care for people during challenging times, to be present with them in times of grief, and to celebrate with them and enrich the joy of happy moments, both personal and communal.

He was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary of New York, where he met his wife, Rabbi Rebecca Ben-Gideon, and was blessed with twin daughters, Lena and Vered. Their son Noam was born four years later in Fairfax, Virginia, where Rabbi Ben-Gideon began his career as an Assistant, and then Associate, Rabbi at Congregation Olam Tikvah. The Ben-Gideon family relocated to Madison, Wisconsin, where Rabbi Joshua Ben-Gideon served for nine transformative years as rabbi of Beth Israel Center.

Rabbi Ben-Gideon currently leads Beth David Synagogue in Greensboro North Carolina, having been welcomed in 2017 as the new Sr. Rabbi in the wake of retirement of a beloved rabbi after 26 years. Rabbi Ben-Gideon is known for his thoughtful and compassionate presence, for his ability to bring spiritual and strategic vision to his work guiding communities, and for his commitment to interfaith work and addressing the needs of the broader community in which he lives. He serves on several boards, including, among others, Jewish Federation, Jewish Family Services, and Youth of North Carolina which is dedicated to building a safer society for children while developing deeper resilience in our youth.

Teaching classic Jewish texts, the origins of our liturgy, and helping his congregation to connect with and be inspired by prayer are central to his rabbinate. He has also introduced new approaches to prayer like mindfulness and meditation to the communities he has served, and has enlivened services through new melodies and programs to enhance the musicality of the community. He shares our love of music and is aware of TBS's traditional use of an electronic keyboard in our services. He references initiating a young fathers' group (ABBA), teaching at a Senior Residence community, and re-invigorating the USY youth group program among his favorite past projects. He is especially proud of how many of the students he works with one-on-one lead musaf or shacharit at their bar or bat mitzvah—and of how many of them continue to do so after their celebration.

When not at synagogue or with his family, you can often find him on the country roads around Greensboro on his bicycle.